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TYNE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.


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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TYNE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

CONSTITUTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD'S ORDER

Dated 29th. March 1897.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF NEWCASTLE,

Alderman	J. Moore, J.P.
Alderman	W. Thompson J.P. (Chairman)
Councillor	E. G. King.
Councillor	A. E. Bedson.
Councillor	E. F. Weidner.
Councillor	H. Moat
Councillor	J. Carr, M.B.E.
Councillor	R. M. Rowe.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF GATESHEAD.

Alderman	J. White, J.P.
Alderman	P. S. Hancock.
Councillor	G. Robertson.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF SOUTH SHIELDS.

Alderman	J. W. Watson, J.P. (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor	J. Garnett.
Councillor	R. Ewart.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF TYNEMOUTH.

Councillor	J. Hunter
Alderman	J. Harrison, J.P.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF WALLSEND.

Councillor	R. B. Webster.
Councillor	F. Harman.

ELECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF JARROW.

Alderman	J. Symonds.
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ELECTED BY THE HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillor	Mrs. A. Davies.
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ELECTED BY THE FELLING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillor	J. Burlison.
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ELECTED BY THE BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillor	W. Cox.
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ELECTED BY THE NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillor	D. Dawson.
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ELECTED BY THE WHICKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Councillor	J. Mc.Dermott, J.P.
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The above constitution is as existing on the 31st. December 1940.

(2)

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health	T.L.J. Coxon, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Clerk to the Authority	J. English.
Treasurer	J. E. Kennedy.
Sanitary Inspector	N. Park, Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute.
Deputy Sanitary Inspector	H. H. Coats " " " "
Assistant Food Inspector	*R. O. Burn " " " "
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	+*W. B. Weatherston " " "
" " "	W. P. Harrison " " "
" " "	*W. S. Bruce " " "
" " "	J. H. Benjamin " " "
Clerk, Mill Dam Office	E. M. Glenny.
Ratsearcher	+B. Mc.Gurk.
"	U. H. Robinson,
"	+H. Burn,
Launches	J. W. Ray, (Senior Coxswain)
"	J. Coltherd.
"	J. W. West.
"	R. S. Burn.
Caretaker, Mill Dam Offices.	J. Shorey.

* Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

+ Released for service with H. M. Forces or work of National Importance.

OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY.

		Telephone No.
Medical Officer of Health, Mill Dam,	South Shields.	65
Sanitary Inspector,	Mill Dam, South Shields.	65
Clerk to the Authority,	145, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	Newcastle 22796.

(3)

Mill Dam,

South Shields.

January, 1941.

The Chairman,
Vice-Chairman and Members
of the Tyne Port Health Authority.

(-)

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year, 1940, on the existing conditions of the Tyne Port and of the work of your Officers during this period.

War conditions continue to impose restrictions upon the information which it is advisable to include in this Report, and I have endeavoured therefore, to confine it to statements of a general nature relative to the work on which the Staff have been engaged.

Merchant shipping conditions have, as usual, received great attention, and particular care has been exercised to effect improvement of conditions on board without undue delay to the shipping concerned.

The health of crews has been carefully supervised, and no case of major infectious disease has occurred.

During the severe weather of the early months of the year, an increase in the number of respiratory diseases occurred, reaching among the coloured crew on board one vessel, the proportions of a slight epidemic.

An increase in the number of cases of malaria occurring prior to arrival at Tyne was also noted.

Two further members of the Staff have been temporarily released to undertake other work of National Importance.

Once again, I am pleased to give sincere tribute to the efficient and cheerful work of all Members of the Staff, and to the Members of the Committee for their interest, and I feel sure, that despite a certain amount of disorganisation and readjustment consequent to the war, with the same help, the work will continue at its present satisfactory level.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. L. J. Coxon.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE TYNE PORTS DURING THE YEAR 1940.

TABLE A.

Number inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Disease on board
By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
271	5,489	398	257	30

1938 287 ships 3,104 579 357 50
185 ships 4,585
39
TABLE C.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS.

Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	1	1
Observation	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	1	1
Diphtheria	-	2	2
Malaria	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	12	2
Rubella	-	2	2
Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Suspected Tuberculosis	-	1	1

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS OCCURRING ON VESSELS DURING THE VOYAGE BUT DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of vessels concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Suspected	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	1	1
Suspected	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	1
Enteric Fever	-	6	1
Suspected	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	8	1
Malaria	-	51	13
Measles	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	3	3
Rubella	-	1	1
Tuberculosis	-	3	3
Suspected	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	2	2
Suspected	-	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	5	1

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.TABLE E.(1) On vessels.

(a) Destroyed	1,211	1,075
(b) Examined	1,211	1,068
(c) Found to be infected with plague	Nil	

Bacteriological examination was undertaken on behalf of this Authority for the detection of Plague Bacilli. No Plague Bacilli were detected.

TABLE F.(2) On shore.

The docks, quays, wharves and warehouses at the Tyne Ports come under the jurisdiction of the Shore Authorities and no reports are available.

TABLE G.

MEASURES OF RAT DESTRUCTION ON "PLAGUE INFECTED" OR "SUSPECTED" VESSELS
OR VESSELS FROM PLAGUE INFECTED PORTS ARRIVING IN THE PORT DURING
THE YEAR

Total number of such vessels arriving	Number of such vessels fumigated by Sec. 2.	Number of Rats killed	Number of such vessels fumigated by H.C.N.	Number of Rats killed	Number of such vessels on which Trapping, Poisoning etc. were employed	Number of Rats killed	Number of such vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE H.

DERATISATION CERTIFICATES AND DERATISATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES
ISSUED DURING THE YEAR

No. of ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates issued					Number of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certifi- cates issued
	After fumigation with				Total		
	H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur	After Trapping, Poisoning, et			
362	16	45	3	--	64	298	362

HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.TABLE J.Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of vessel	Defects original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin, and other conditions preducial to health
British	28	196	246
Other Nations	..	18	40

Close co-operation has been maintained throughout the year with the Ministry of Shipping and the Port Health Authorities of other ports with a view to ensuring that defects detected are adequately followed up and rectified either here or elsewhere at the earliest opportunity.

Information of such action taken is also transmitted to the port primarily responsible for the detection of the defects under consideration.

SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

The arrangements for the supply of water to shipping remains substantially the same as previously, in so far as the sources of supply are concerned.

Where water is supplied by means of waterboats, a system of partial chlorination has been enforced with very satisfactory results.

The Bacterial Analyses have been consistently good, and form a marked contrast to those previously obtained which formed the basis of a special report on the subject.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.Experience of working of Article 16.

No legal proceedings were undertaken by this Authority under the Provisions of this Article.

PSITTACOSIS.Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1930.

16 vessels arrived at Tyne Ports with 25 budgerigars on board. These birds all appeared to be in a healthy condition.

No cases of Psittacosis (Parrot Disease) occurred during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION.

(1) No legal actions were taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

(2) There are no Shellfish Beds within the jurisdiction of the Tyne Port Health Authority.

CO-OPERATION WITH OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES.

As much of the success of the work of this Authority depends on the co-operation which it receives from outside sources, I would wish to express my keen appreciation of the help so received.

In addition to the assistance of officials of the Corporations and Councils of those Authorities who form part of our Joint Board, I would particularly like to thank the Officers of the Tyne Improvement Commission, His Majesty's Collector of Customs, His Majesty's Inspector of Immigration, the Principal Officer of the Ministry of Shipping, and their respective Staffs.

In many ways, these Officers have, by their timely help in their respective departments, rendered effective much of our work which would otherwise have been abortive.

Finally, I would like to place on record, my gratitude to my own Staff for the quality of their work and the loyalty they have shown.

Mr. Park and the entire Staff deserve well the best thanks of the Authority.

T. L. J. Coxon, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Mill Dam,

South Shields.

January, 1941.

